CALENDAR OF EVENTS


Tuesday, February 11 — Remnants of a Dream: A Search for the Jeweled City’s Relics. Lecture at 7:30 p.m. at the San Francisco Museum & Historical Society. For more information, call 415-775-1111 or check http://www.sfhistory.org.

Sunday, March 2 — History of Castilleja. Lecture by Peggy McKee. Palo Alto Historical Association, 2 p.m., Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road.

PAST Heritage Board of Directors
Dave Babenik, President
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PAST Website: www.pastheritage.org
PAST Hotline: 650-299-8878
Contributors: David Babenik, Laura Ferrell, Pria Graves, Caroline Willis, Gail Woolley
Photos: Carolyn George, Palo Alto Historical Association, Caroline Willis

WHAT’S INSIDE
MOAH Exhibit 1
Preservation Week Preview 1 and 3
President’s Message 2
Then and Now 3
Holiday House Tour 4
Membership 6
Calendar 8

PAST Heritage is a nonprofit organization advocating the preservation of the historic architecture, neighborhoods, and character of the greater Palo Alto Stanford area.

PAST News
Palo Alto Stanford Heritage
P.O. Box 308
Palo Alto, CA 94302

PAST Heritage is a nonprofit organization advocating the preservation of the historic architecture, neighborhoods, and character of the greater Palo Alto Stanford area.

From Queen Anne to Joseph Eichler and Edward Durell Stone, traditional to whimsical, artifacts external and internal, Birge Clark or Julia Morgan, chimney pots or doorknobs, moldings or hinges, this look at the “architextures” of Palo Alto and the surrounding area will educate, fascinate and amuse.

Friday, February 7—Sunday, May 25
The Museum of American Heritage
Friday, Saturday and Sunday
11 a.m.—4 p.m.
Free Admission

The Museum of American Heritage (MOAH), is located in the historic Williams House, 351 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto.

PRESTATION WEEK 2003: MAY 5TH—10TH
Cities, Suburbs and Countryside

Mark your calendars and plan on joining us for both noon and evening walking tours to learn more about Palo Alto and Stanford and their historic structures. On Saturday May 10, from ten to noon, we will recognize century old houses by presenting their owners with plaques. We will also honor projects and individuals exemplifying preservation in our community.
If you are traveling that week, be sure to check out local tours and exhibits as many communities nationwide choose Preservation Week to show off their heritage. Closer to home, Redwood City and Berkeley will also be hosting events highlighting their preservation efforts.
Mark your calendars and bring your friends to learn more about the community we share.
A s Palo Alto’s historic preservation group, should PAST take a more active role in saving our threatened historic resources for the future?

Our Statement of Purpose reads: “PAST Heritage is a nonprofit organization supporting the preservation of the historic architecture, neighborhoods, and character of the greater Palo Alto-Stanford area through informed citizen involvement and education.” [emphasis added]

We have traditionally stressed education. The Holiday House Tour and Preservation Week, while also lots of fun, are at their core, educational. They foster a personal appreciation of our physical historic heritage by intimately connecting their participants with some of its notable examples. But education is a first step; sometimes more direct action is required to preserve specific assets.

To date, PAST has ventured only lightly into direct advocacy, although its members have involved themselves in many individual efforts. The Downing House, the Juana Briones House, and the Varsity Theater crusades are representative. In 1999, the independent Neighbors For Preservation was formed to conduct the Measure G campaign. Its independence was a legal necessity—PAST’s non-profit tax status strictly regulates its efforts to influence legislation. Nevertheless, we have some legal leeway for advocacy, provided we observe strict spending limits.

Should PAST then take more proactive measures to preserve specific threatened historic resources? PAST’s Board of Directors decided in the affirmative last October, voting unanimously to urge the City of Palo Alto to spare the Edgewood Plaza shopping center, with its unique Eichler architecture and vision, from the redevelopment bulldozers. That issue continues.

The following month it called for the maximum feasible protection for historic resources in the SoFA district, where Palo Alto began, and which retains many physical reminders of its history. The first SoFA case is the 1930 Family Service Laundry building at 140 Homer Avenue, which faces demolition for a condominium complex. Being potentially eligible for listing on the California Register, it must not be blithely discarded.

The underpinning for these actions is PAST’s membership—currently nearly 300 concerned community members and their families—lending their at least implied support. The 2003 Holiday House Tour and Preservation Week also receive that tacit support brings a parallel responsibility to gauge and represent our membership fairly. It pledges to do that.

As always, we value your opinions and suggestions. And, as you choose to give it, your explicit support and involvement in preservation activities. We can be reached by e-mail at our website: http://www.pastheritage.org which forwards directly to my personal address: dbubenik@earthlink.net. Alternatively, leave a message on our hotline at 650-299-8878, or call me directly at 650-328-6721. And contact any PAST Board member (see list on the back cover).
MEMBERSHIP GROWING

PAST Heritage now has 291 members, the most ever at the halfway point in our membership year. Of course, many memberships represent more than one person, so in terms of supporters we number nearly 500. We appreciate every one of you and hope that some of you will be assisting on committees and that all of you will join us in celebrating Preservation Week in May.

Gail Woolley, Membership Chair

Life Members
James E. Baer & Lucy Little
Jim & Kay C ulcer
Joseph & Meri Ehrlich
Pria Graves & George Koerner
Eleanor & Bruce Heister
Ernest & Mildred Mario
Leslie McLaren

Sponsors
Mary Sarah Bradley
Maryam Escudero & Nick Selby
Shirley Finfrock
Linda Jensen & David Yoon
Ellen Klor
Dianne MacDaniels & David Jones III
Vic & Mary Ojakian
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Ken Thom
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Joan Urquhart
Ron & Catherine van Zuylen
Kathryn & Eric Verwillow
Amo Viera da Rosa
Diana Watters
Len & Hilda Weisberg
V. Gwen Weisner
Kenneth E. & Priscilla H. White
Jesse & Esther Wilson
Toni Wisman & David Schwartz

CONTRIBUTORS WANTED
Do you have a special building or neighborhood or architectural feature that you might like to share with the other members of PAST? A treasure hidden in some backyard, an overlooked block or alley, or perhaps an old barn? We welcome articles and photos from our members.

Space permitting, we will do our best to include your contributions. Articles should be less than 450 words. Pictures are welcome, but must be either a photograph or high quality electronic image (.tif preferred).

Contact Carolyn George at ccamozzi@earthlink.net or leave a message on our hotline, 650-299-8878.

1903 TIDBITS
• Memorial church dedicated to the memory of Leland Stanford
• Jane Stanford relinquished control of University affairs to the Trustees
• Mills the Florist opened at 80 Palo Alto Avenue

BEFORE AND AFTER AWARD WINNER
Woodenwings Builders, featured in our Winter 2002 PAST Newsletter, has received national recognition for the award winning Professorville kitchen shown in that article. The November 2002 issue of the trade journal Remodeling, features the project (Virginia Schutte, architect) in an article titled, Before+After On a Tight Rein, which describes the "value engineering", or "downsizing", process used to reduce cost without too many sacrifices. Cutting costs does not mean aesthetics must suffer. Money was saved in the following areas: demolition, foundation work, roofing, cabinets, painting, rough plumbing, finish plumbing and fixtures, rough electrical, masonry (porch), supervision, and overhead/profit with a prize winning result.

PAST also is mentioned in the article which, in its background on Laura Ferrell of Woodenwings, says "She loves the city’s old homes, and sits on the Palo Alto Stanford Heritage Board..."

Carolyn George

Two of our 1903 houses.
Once again, the PAST Heritage Holiday House Tour was an overwhelming success. The weather cooperated and six hundred guests enjoyed the five homes in the Ashby Addition area. For the first time, we closed the street where most of the houses were located, allowing people to enjoy old-time tranquility as they toured the houses. The presence of two historic cars parked nearby also added to the ambience.

We couldn’t have done it without our many volunteers. From the five homeowners who shared their houses with us, to the 50 docents who staffed the homes, to the crew who heated cider and served cookies, to the countless others who took photos, did research, brought refreshments, picked up balloons, staffed sales tables or did the millions of other jobs, everyone gave 110% and made this a wonderful day for all our guests.

Local designer, Richard Elmore, did wonderful drawings of each of the homes for our publicity this year. Our newsletter editor, Carolyn George, not only gave us all an advance peek in the fall edition, but also produced the wonderful tour booklet each guest received.

Our publicity whiz, JudyAnn Edwards, also did a great job for us again this year. We had people from San Jose, Cupertino, Campbell and even Marin attending the tour. And most importantly, everyone seemed to be having a good time!

Pria Graves